

The First Sunday in Advent

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

P.O. Box 98, Okabena, MN 56161

A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession

James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-853-4417

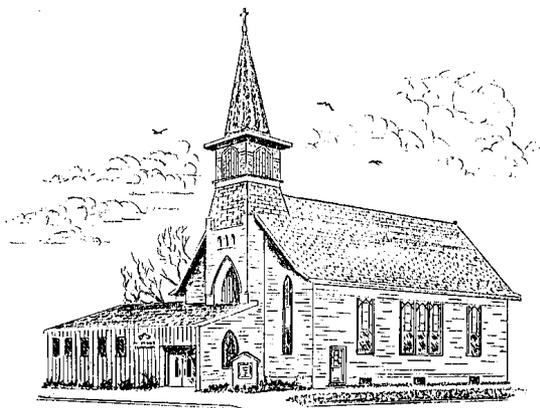
Rebecca Kazemba, Teacher – 507-329-2061

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Jolene Albrecht – Kindergarten – 507-351-1204

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www.okabenalutheran.org



WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

Prelude Mrs. Jennifer Dukleth

Hymn 60 Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Order of Service Page 12ff. in the Worship Supplement

Epistle Lesson Romans 13:11-14 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 24:36-44 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Hymn 62 *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Sermon Galatians 5:22-23 "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Hosea 3:1-3 "Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans." So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley. And I said to her, "You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man—so, too, will I be toward you.""

The Fruit of the Spirit is: Love

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 709 *God Loves Me Dearly*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Hymn 70 *Hosanna to the Living Lord*

ELECTION MEETING St. John's Election meeting will be held immediately after the service in the auditorium. All voting members are encouraged to attend. The Nomination Committee has proposed a list of candidates. Nominations will also be welcomed from the floor.

The following membership matters will also be addressed: Welcome Austin and Jocelyn Fogelman by profession of faith; Welcome Sydney Paul via transfer from Tacoma, WA; Transfer the Darren Durst family to Immanuel, Mankato; Transfer Katherine Moffenbier to Bowdle, SD.

ADVENT The first of three midweek Advent services will be held on Wednesday evening at 7. What better way to prepare for Christmas than by gathering around our Savior's Word and offering Him our prayers and praise!

Advent devotional booklets will be available to any who want them. See the pastor.

CHRISTMAS EVE The first of four Christmas Eve practices will begin immediately after lunch today. Parents, please help your children memorize their parts to the best of their ability.

CHURCH DECORATING We owe a special thanks to all who came during the week to decorate the church for Christmas.

COOKIE EXCHANGE Anyone interested in a Christmas cookie exchange should contact Ruth Eigenberg by Tuesday, December 5, and the details will be given out after that. We will plan to exchange cookies on December 17.

CALENDARS Inspirational calendars for 2018 are available on the entryway table. The cost is \$5. See the sign above the basket for more information.

PIONEER VILLAGE We are grateful that our choir represented us again at Pioneer Village. Their work is always well received.

LADDER A 24' fiberglass ladder was donated to the church by Darren and Amy Durst. Their gift will be very useful and is received with thanks.

CLEANING (Wk 2) R. Gustaf, J. Zuehlke
J. Appel, S. Winters

Nomination Committee Proposal Election Meeting Dec. 3, 2017				
Office	Term	Current	Tenure	Nominees
Elder	3 yrs	Dr. Steve Sumej	16-17	Leonard Eigenberg
		David Ahrens	13-18	Dr. Steve Sumej
		Steve DeWall	14-19	
Trustee	3 yrs	Bruce Eigenberg*	12-17	Mike DeWall
		Christopher Voit	16-18	Steve Winters
		Duane Voit	14-19	
Chairman	1 yr	Ron Strike	17	Allen Jensen
				Ron Strike
Secretary	1 yr	Dave Schmidt**	17	Nathan Albrecht
				Nathan Voit
Treasurer	1 yr	Craig Ahrens	17	Craig Ahrens
				David Schmidt
Education	3 yrs	Steve Winters*	13-17	Bruce Eigenberg
		Les Ruthenbeck III	16-18	Jim Kazemba
		Phil Strike	17-19	
Finance	2 yrs	Larry Boernsen	16-17	Larry Boernsen
		Don Lueck	14-17	Herb Brockshus
		Nathan Voit	12-17	Mark DeWall
		Greg Dukleth*		Tony DeWall
		Mike Fogelman	17-18	Don Lueck
				Brandt Wendland
Cemetery	3 yrs	Jim Eigenberg	15-17	Jim Eigenberg
		Regan Lueck**	16-18	Joey Jensen
		Loren Marschel	14-19	

* Six years completed or does not wish to hold the same office in the next term

** Appointed to fulfill another's term